

## Geologic Time Line

Era	Period	Years Ago (in millions)	Duration (in millions of years)	Length on paper	Major organisms and events
Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.6	1.6	1.6 cm.	modern mammals, woolly mammoth, musk ox, birds; Great Ice Age
	Tertiary	65	63	6.3 cm.	horses, camels, grasslands, primates, whales, rodents; grasslands expand
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	144	79	7.9 cm.	mass extinction; gastropods, dinosaurs dominate; ice-free poles
	Jurassic	208	65	6.5 cm.	small mammals, first large dinosaurs, first frogs, toads and salamanders, first bird – Archaeopteryx;
	Triassic	245	40	4.0 cm.	reptile-like birds, ferns, cycads, ginkgoes, conifers; continental rifting, climate warms
Paleozoic	Permian	286	41	4.1 cm.	modern insects, dragonflies, beetles, palm trees, large reptiles; Pangaea
	Pennsylvanian	320	34	3.4 cm.	ferns, horsetails, cockroaches; coal-forming sediments in vast swamps
	Mississippian	360	40	4.0 cm.	crinoids, brachiopods, land reptiles, amphibians; glaciation, climate change
	Devonian	408	48	4.8 cm.	spiders, mites, lung fish
	Silurian	438	30	3.0 cm.	leafless plants, first sharks, arthropods
	Ordovician	505	67	6.7 cm.	corals, crinoids, corals, clams, sponges
Precambrian	Cambrian	570	65	6.5 cm.	trilobites, marine algae; super continent
		4,600	4.03 billion	4.03 m.	stromatolites, worms, jellyfish, algae, single-celled organisms